

Capital Investment Grants

(cont'd from page 1)

Skowhegan and Oxford, as well as the Mid Maine Solid Waste Association (serving Dexter, Corinna, St. Albans, Exeter, and Ripley), received funds for new baler upgrades at their recycling centers. Skowhegan also received money for a wood chipper to be used in their composting and mulch operations.

The Waste Management and Recycling Program also approved grant funding for 13 other applicants to improve, upgrade or expand their recycling facilities. The communities of Castine, Clifton, Franklin, Litchfield, Van Buren, Sabattus, and Greene, along with

regional programs at Pleasant River Solid Waste Disposal District, Readfield/Wayne, Bath, Unity Area Regional Recycling, Howland, and Blue Hill/Surrey, are already, or will be, seeing improvements at their facilities over the coming year.

Grant funding will also be used to create reuse areas or swap barns in Sabattus, Bath, Blue Hill/Surrey, and Franklin. And, citizens will see improved municipal composting operations at Lincoln County Recycling in Wiscasset, South Berwick, Oxford, Unity Area Regional Recycling, Blue Hill/Surrey, and Carrabasset Valley, where Kim Truskowski will be overseeing an innovative restaurant food waste collection and composting program.

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Maine State Planning Office
Waste Management & Recycling Program
State House Station #38
Augusta, ME 04333-0038

Coming Soon

The 1998 Municipal Solid Waste Annual Report Package will soon be arriving in the mail. Look for it in early January!

SPO, in full cooperation with MRRA, will be holding a workshop, entitled "The Paper Shuffle," on January 12 & 14, 1999, focussing on data collection & analysis and safety record keeping procedures. See Page 6 for more information.

SPO is planning a workshop on Getting the Message Out: Promoting Recycling & Waste Reduction at the Local Level for February 1999. More information will be coming your way.

Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Conference, April 6-7, at the Samoset Resort in Rockport.



Recycle This! Newsletter

Newsletter of the Maine State Planning Office, Waste Management & Recycling Program * December 1998

Maine Recycling Trends

In 1995, Maine reached a statewide recycling rate of 41%, ranking among the top 10% of states nationwide. This 8% increase in recycling from 1991 to 1995 translated into an additional 200,000 tons per year of recyclables over 1991, effectively reducing demand for landfill capacity. Furthermore, in 1995 an estimated 90% of Maine households (up from 72% in 1992) had access to recycling programs.

The current state goal is to recycle 50% of its municipal solid waste by 1998. The State Planning Office (SPO) is now in the process of determining the state recycling rate for 1997; this will provide a good indication of how close we are to reaching that mark. We

According to the data obtained from the municipal solid waste reports for 1997, 250 municipalities, out of the 419 that reported, were recycling at or above 35%, the state established goal for municipalities. More specifically, out of the 173 municipalities that reported their recycling rates to the SPO individually, 77 municipalities reported rates of 35% or greater. Of the 246 municipalities that reported as part of regional associations, 29 regional associations, representing 173 municipalities, reported rates of 35% or greater.

While Maine has made great strides in recycling, we must continue our efforts to increase the amount of waste that we are diverting from disposal. If the state is to reach its goal of recycling 50% of the municipal waste

stream, a variety of approaches and management techniques will need to be implemented. Specific areas with potential for increased waste diversion include composting, construction and demolition debris management, and improvement of traditional recycling programs.

Information on the latest recycling rates, solid waste generation, and disposal capacity will be included in the Waste Generation and Disposal Report, which is set to be completed by January 1, 1999. For specific information regarding your community's recycling rate, contact Hank Tyler at SPO at 287-1489.

Over \$450,000 Awarded in Capital Investment Grants

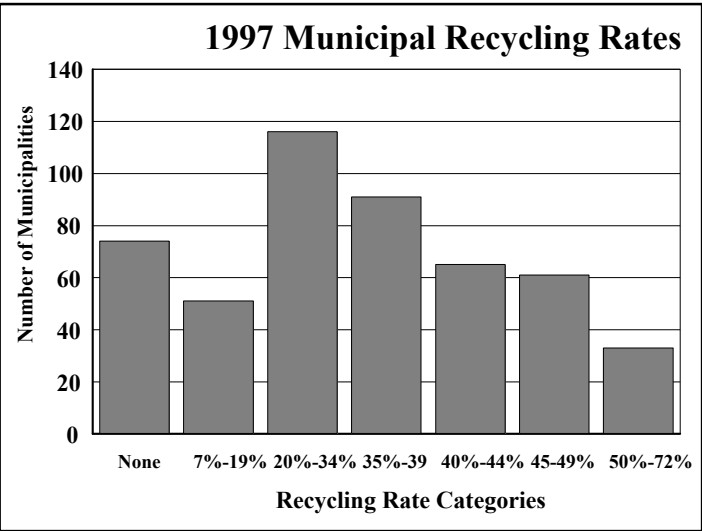
If everything goes as planned, thousands of Maine households will see the positive effects of the latest round of grant awards right in their own backyards, or at their doorsteps.

In addition to providing funds for recycling facility improvements and equipment purchases, SPO's Waste Management and Recycling Program awarded money for the purchase of over 28,000 curbside recycling bins. The City of Portland will purchase the lion's share, around 24,000 bins, and will distribute them to residents for their brand new curbside recycling program, which the City hopes to launch simultaneously with its Pay-As-You-Throw trash collection campaign. Detroit (200 bins), Stetson (90), Alton (420) and the City of Bangor (500) will also be distributing recycling bins to their residents.

Lewiston and Auburn each received funds for 1,500 of the familiar blue boxes as part of their effort to join forces in a regional collaboration to improve their recycling collection. In addition, the two cities will be upgrading their processing capabilities with a new horizontal baler to be located at the Lewiston Facility.

A total of over 650 backyard compost bins will be coming to Carrabasset (50 units), Bangor (110), Clifton (20), Oxford (25), Van Buren (150), South Berwick (100), Sabattus (100), and Freeport (100). Freeport will also be embarking on an ambitious demolition debris recycling program under the supervision of Director Cynthia Strout.

The towns of (cont'd on page 8)



recently calculated the 1997 recycling rates for municipalities, and are in the process of figuring out the contribution of the commercial sector to the recycling efforts of the state. After this, the statewide recycling rate can be determined. If Maine reaches the 50% goal, it would be the first state in the nation!

An Introduction to the State Planning Office's Waste Management & Recycling Program

After the former Waste Management Agency was dismantled in 1995, some of the staff and functions of that agency were placed in the State Planning Office under the Waste Management and Recycling Program. Although the new program is supported by only 6 staff members, down from 16 at the Waste Management Agency, the staff possesses a great variety of experience and knowledge in the field of waste management, and the program has much to offer municipalities.

The primary goals of the Waste Management and Recycling Program are as follows:

- to assist communities in their efforts to improve local recycling programs;
- to track trends in solid waste management, including analyzing available disposal capacity;
- to plan for the development of facilities sufficient to meet needs for municipal solid waste identified in the state plan.

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, the staff of the Waste Management and Recycling Program focus their attention on the following types of activities:

- Organizing workshops, such as: Pay-As-You Throw Experiences & Lessons in Maine; Solid Waste Operators training; and "Getting the Message Out" — Promoting Your Local Recycling Program
- Providing cost/benefit analysis for municipal solid waste & recycling programs.
- Developing a recycling facility at the Windham correctional center.
- Promoting "Buy Recycled" through America Recycles Day (Nov. 15).
- Performing necessary data collection to gauge the level of recycling within the state;
- Monitoring solid waste generation and disposal data to establish capacity needs;
- Providing educational and outreach materials on waste reduction, recycling and related solid waste management issues;
- Encouraging communities to work together to achieve regional economies of scale with programs;
- Providing grant funding, as may be appropriate, to assist in evaluating solid waste management options or implementation;
- Siting, designing and permitting solid waste disposal facility in accordance with the needs identified in the state plan and any revisions to that plan.

Much of the program work involves staff meeting with recycling coordinators or municipal officials individually, going to local meetings, and talking on the phone about a town's particular recycling concerns and needs. In addition, the Waste Management and Recycling Program offers a great deal of educational publications for municipal officials as well as residents.

A listing of the publications offered by the Waste Management & Recycling Program, as well as a complete staff listing, are included in this publication on pages 3 and 4. Please feel free to remove this page and post it in a convenient location for your reference.

Waste Management & Recycling Program WEBSITE



The Waste Management & Recycling Program now has its own website, containing a wealth of information on solid waste management issues. The site also provides information about SPO Waste Management and Recycling staff, including a direct e-mail address for each staff member.

One of the special features of the website is the Waste Management Services Directory, which has been formatted as a searchable database. The database allows you to search for information by company name or material so that you do not have to scan through 100 pages and over 1000 entries for the information that you are seeking.

The website also contains electronic versions of many of the publications produced by the Waste Management and Recycling Program, including the Waste Management and Recycling 5 year plan, and a number of fact sheets on a variety of subjects.

In addition, the website contains links to many other sites with valuable information, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and other environmental organizations. For example, we provide a link to the California Integrated Board of Waste Management page (www.ciwmb.ca.gov/ — click on "teachers & students"), which contains recycling graphics that can be downloaded.

To reach the Waste Management & Recycling Program's website, first go to the State Planning Office website at:

<http://www.state.me.us/spo/>
and then click on **"Waste Management and Recycling Program."** Please visit our site, and provide feedback about the information on the page and what other information you might find valuable.

Pay-As-You-Throw Programs Flourish in Maine

As solid waste costs have continued to rise throughout this decade, municipalities have increasingly explored Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) program options as a means of reducing their waste disposal budgets. Under a PAYT program, residents buy specific bags, tags or stickers for their trash, typically costing between \$.30 and \$2.00 per unit. In almost all programs, recycling is free. As a result, people only pay for what they throw out, and are provided with incentives for reducing waste generation and increasing recycling. Between 1995 and 1997, 12 new towns in Maine adopted a PAYT program; currently, there are 64 programs in the state.

SPO's Waste Management and Recycling Program recently conducted a survey of

Maine's PAYT programs in order to gain a better understanding of how these programs are working in Maine. Two key issues explored in the survey were the impact of programs on waste generation and recycling efforts, and the extent to which towns experienced problems, such as backyard burn and illegal dumping.

Of the 46 towns represented in the survey, only 2 towns reported a problem with backyard burn, while 10 noted some level of illegal dumping. Studies have shown, however, that illegal dumping is common for the first 6 months and then residents adjust to the system and illegal dumping lessens.

While many towns adopt PAYT programs as a means of financing their solid waste budget more equitably, others are particularly interested in reducing their disposal costs and/or increasing recycling. 25 towns noted a positive impact in one or both of those areas. Some

towns identified dramatic changes while others experienced more modest changes in their waste generation and recycling.

Finally, when asked about any advice they might give to towns that are considering a PAYT program, almost all were encouraging about the prospects for a successful program, but also strongly emphasized the need for education well in advance of program implementation. For a copy of the full report, call Lisa Baldwin at the SPO Waste Management and Recycling Program at 287-9074.



Community in Focus: Bethel

Don Murphy thinks that Bethel can do better than the 40% recycling rate that it achieved in 1997. As Special Projects Coordinator, Don is in charge of solid waste management planning and he hopes that Bethel will reach a 50% recycling rate in 1999. Rather than implement a Pay-As-You-Throw program, Don would like to boost Bethel's rate through increased education and a voluntary commitment of businesses and residents.

Bethel, with a population of 2,360, recycled 240 tons in 1997 (up from 94 in 1992), and sent about 1,325 tons of MSW to MMWAC and 438 tons of bulky waste to Grimm in Topsham. Bethel owns and operates a transfer station just outside of town. The towns of Newry and Hanover pay Bethel to utilize this facility. Bethel pays a contracted hauler to deliver MSW to the MMWAC facility in Auburn at \$90/ton to ship and tip.

Bethel's Recycling Center is conveniently located close to the center of town and is open 24 hours. The recycling drop-off site was recently moved from its downtown location in order to expand the town's waste water treatment plant. As of yet, there is no orga-

nized curbside recycling pick up.

Bethel belongs to Oxford County Regional Solid Waste Corporation (OCRSWC), a local recyclables marketing cooperative. Marie Bartlett, Educational and Marketing Director at OCRSWC, is able to supply Bethel with accurate tonnage information for each recycled commodity that the town is recycling at any given time. Marie also stays on top of market developments, and is an ongoing source of education and promotion for the recycling program.

Don is currently working with the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, on possible plans for an upgrade at the current transfer station site. The facility upgrade provides a good opportunity to look at the future needs of the community and to educate the townspeople, businesses and local officials about current waste management practices.

Bethel kicked off its educational campaign with Bethel Recycles on America Recycles Day. Over 70 people showed up at the event. Here are some of the ideas Don is looking at to achieve 50%:

- Citizen education: getting a clear, consistent message out to all sectors of the community, including seasonal guests;

- Targeting the business community by promoting the positive environmental image of recycling;
- Backyard Composting: every ton of organic waste diverted through home composting equals a savings of \$90;
- Building/maintaining a volunteer base: residents learn best from their neighbors;
- Stressing the economic benefits of waste reduction, recycling and composting: tax savings through avoided disposal cost;
- Education of decision-makers, local officials and employees;
- Constant examination of the waste stream and recycling markets for opportunity to divert additional material from disposal to recycling.

Don Murphy is hoping that a comprehensive educational campaign will enable Bethel to further increase its recycling rate. But, with small town pride and public spirit, Bethel is already proof that voluntary programs can be extremely successful.

SPO's Waste Management & Recycling Program staff are available to assist Bethel, and any other Maine community, in their efforts to increase recycling and waste reduction activity.

RecyclingMarkets

Over the past decade we have seen each recyclable commodity price decline individually at one time or another. Now may be the first time, however, that all markets are responding to similar conditions across the board. This is not new information for you as your material revenue checks have been shrinking over the past 8-10 months on all materials.

The price of HDPE went into decline a year ago, but was tripped off with the opening of two virgin resin plants in the south. These new virgin plants created overcapacity, which drove the price of virgin resins down, in turn triggering the decline of post-consumer resin prices.

Most grades of paper did relatively well the first six months of the year, but foreign markets have affected pricing on these materials since midsummer.

The scrap metal industry has also been hit by drastically declining prices. This is due partly to Russia's "dumping" of scrap metal into the marketplace as it is dismantling an obsolete "war machine."

As mentioned above, the sustained downturn in market prices is in large part being caused by the recessions in Asia and Russia. Why does the economy in these regions affect our markets to such a large degree? It is the price we pay for prosperity, it seems. Because the value of the US dollar is often worth 2 or 3 times the value of these weaker currencies, trading with the US is a very attractive option. This creates an overactive import market in this country, and as a result, manufacturers can buy the materials much more cheaply from these market regions. This creates an oversupply of available material, thus decreasing pricing.

Unfortunately, there are no magic formulas or secrets -- we are back to supply and demand. There will be a price recovery, but expect it to occur very, very slowly and not to begin for at least 6 months or more. With markets tightening up this way, towns should revisit their costs to recycle in order to control those costs better. These markets also dictate revisiting material specifications and adhering to them. Workshops are being offered to help

Upcoming Workshops & Training

"The Paper Shuffle"

MRRA and SPO are planning a workshop, entitled "The Paper Shuffle," in order to help municipalities deal more efficiently with the paperwork associated with solid waste management.

Topics for the workshop include the following:

- The "Municipal Solid Waste Annual Report" -- a discussion of changes to the form and how to count wood debris from the Ice Storm of '98;
- Tools to analyze your solid waste costs: computer programs to help you get a handle on your solid waste costs and plan for the future;
- OSHA 200 forms: how to maintain accurate records;
- Quality Control.

Two sessions of this workshop will be offered in different locations for the convenience of attendees: the first will be held in the Lewiston/Auburn area on January 12, 1999 (snow date: 1/21), and the second will be held in Bangor on January 14, 1999 (snow date: 1/21). Specific locations and times will be determined at a later date. Keep your eyes open for more information to come!

The Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Conference

Back by popular demand, the Maine Recycling & Solid Waste Conference will be held at the Samoset Resort in Rockport, Maine on April 6 & 7, 1999.

You may pay for the workshop

in any of the following ways:

- Payment by cash or check in advance or at the door (registration faxed);
- Billed (purchase order # required);
- Credit card (coming on line in March, 1999);
- Deducted from revenue (Active MRRA marketing members may have workshop fees deducted from material revenues).

Mark your calendars and look for more information in the months to come. We hope to see you there!

MRRA Winter Workshop Policy

If an MRRA sponsored workshop is cancelled due to inclement weather, that decision will be made by 6:30 AM on the day of the scheduled workshop. The announcement will be made on the following television stations:

- 6 Alive (WCSH - Portland);
- Channel 2 (WLBS - Bangor);

You may also call the MRRA offices at 942-6772 to get a recording about the workshop.

If a workshop is cancelled due to weather, those registered for the workshop will be notified of the snow date. Registrants will be given the option of attending the rescheduled workshop, or receiving a refund.

If a workshop is held and the weather remains questionable for travel, the registrant will receive a 50% refund of the workshop fee if he or she does not attend the workshop.

Please be advised that the new solid waste regulations have been issued by DEP and should have been received by every municipality in the state. If you have not received a copy, please contact Becky Hodsdon at 287-8112 or visit the website at: <http://www.state.me.us/sos/cec/rcn/apa/06/chaps06.htm> (Chapters 400-418)

Meet the Waste Management and Recycling Program Staff

Lisa Baldwin has been with the Waste Management and Recycling Program for a year and a half. During that time she has been responsible for developing the State of Maine Waste Management and Recycling Plan as well as the Statewide Capacity Report. Additional responsibilities include developing Internet informational tools, delivering recycling educational programs to schools and organizations, and providing other technical assistance to municipalities.

Phone: (207) 287-9074

E-mail: lisa.baldwin@state.me.us

Donna Bradstreet has been working with the waste management program for over ten years. Donna is responsible for providing necessary staff support and project assistance for much of the program work. She also answers many of the questions that are called in and fulfills many of the requests for publications.

Phone: (207) 287-8050

E-mail: donna.bradstreet@state.me.us

Shannon Haines is the newest member of the Waste Management and Recycling Program, bringing with her three years of experience in solid waste management. Her responsibilities include developing outreach materials, including newsletters, fact sheets and curriculum, planning municipal workshops, and providing technical assistance to municipalities as requested.

Phone: (207) 287-8053

E-mail: shannon.haines@state.me.us

George MacDonald, manager of the Waste Management and Recycling Program, has been employed in the waste management and recycling field for over twelve years. George's major responsibilities include managing the program's finances and personnel, coordinating efforts with other state and regional agencies and staff, developing policy related to solid waste and recycling, and ensuring that program policies and statutory requirements are implemented.

Phone: (207) 287-5759

E-mail: george.macdonald@state.me.us

Sam Morris has worked in solid waste management at the municipal and state level in Maine for the past nine years. His current duties include administering the capital investment grant program, developing training programs for solid waste operators, and providing technical assistance and cost/benefit analysis to communities regarding solid waste management, recycling, and composting.

Phone: (207) 287-8054

E-mail: sam.morris@state.me.us

R. Collin Therrien brings over sixteen years of private and public sector community and environmental planning and design experience to the program. Her key duties include overseeing the annual municipal reporting, performing waste management and recycling planning, measurement and policy analysis, and providing technical assistance to municipal officials and facility operators.

Phone: (207) 287-5619

E-mail: collin.r.therrien@state.me.us

Hank Tyler has worked for the State Planning Office for 24 years. Having recently joined the Waste Management & Recycling Program, Hank manages the data that SPO gathers from the Annual Municipal Solid Waste Reports. His duties include maintaining the municipal recycling database, producing town reports, tabulating the annual municipal rate recycling report, and responding to requests for municipal and statewide recycling information.

Phone: (207) 287-1489

E-mail: hank.tyler@state.me.us

General Contact Information:

State Planning Office

Waste Management & Recycling Program

State House Station #38

Augusta, Maine 04333-0038

Phone: (207) 287-8050 or 1-800-662-4545

Website: <http://www.state.me.us/spo/wm&r>

Fax: (207) 287-5756

Publications Available from Waste Management & Recycling Program

If you are interested in any of the following publications, please call our office at the number provided or check the appropriate box(es) and return this form to:

State Planning Office
Waste Management & Recycling Program
State House Station #38
Augusta, ME 04333-0038
Phone: (207) 287-8050 or 1-800-662-4545
Fax: (207) 287-5756

Waste Reduction & Recycling Program Fact Sheets

These fact sheets contain basic information that can either be copied and distributed directly to residents or incorporated into your own publications.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buy Recycled and Close the Loop! | <input type="checkbox"/> Collection and Composting of Separated Residential and Commercial Organic Wastes* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Composting With Worms* | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Reduction & Recycling Tips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Getting the Message Out* | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Storm '98 Wood Debris Management* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household Hazardous Waste* | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Steps of Office Paper Recycling* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maine Model Business/Community Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning & Developing Your Recycling Education Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning a Recycling Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling/Source Reduction Quiz* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recycling Programs in Schools* | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduction & Recycling Tips for Effective Direct Mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reduction & Recycling Tips for Conference Planners | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Management and Recycling Benefits to the Maine Economy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Setting up a Model Business/Community Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Why Recycle? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Reduction Options for Business and Industry | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Reduction Tips for Consumers | |

Other Publications

- ☐ Model Graphics for Developing Recycling Promotional Material (booklet)
- ☐ Classroom Activities (163 page booklet)
- ☐ Maine Waste Management Services Directory (94 page booklet)*
- ☐ Municipal Recycling Programs in Maine (80 page booklet)
- ☐ Pay-As-You-Throw Programs in Maine (7 page report)

*All starred publications are also available on our website at <http://www.state.me.us/spo/wm&r>

If requesting publication(s) by fax or mail, please provide the following information:

Name: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Pages 5 & 6 contributed by:

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Meet the MRRRA Staff

Kathy Guerin, Executive Director

Kathy has been in the recycling and solid waste field for 9 years. She spent 3 years at Sawyer Environmental growing their paper recycling programs. In 1992, she was hired by MRRRA as Marketing Director for the newly formed Marketing Cooperative. In October, 1997, she was named executive director of the MRRRA. In this capacity, she is responsible for managing the finances and programs of the association, as well as program and market development, public relations, and coordination of the annual recyclathon.

Victor Horton, Marketing Assistant

Victor came to MRRRA 2 years ago with a strong background in bookkeeping/recordkeeping. Today, he markets all of the Marketing Cooperative's 23,000 tons of recyclables. Victor is also responsible for running the daily operations of the MRRRA office, including the coordination and placement of market orders, transportation, the financial recordkeeping, and oversight of volunteer staff.

Maine Marketing Cooperative

In 1992, the former Waste Management Agency and the Maine Resource Recovery Association pooled resources to develop a municipal marketing cooperative. With state agency funding and administrative oversight by the MRRRA, member towns comprise a marketing committee and coordinate joint marketing of the recyclables. By combining vol-

umes from many recycling programs, Maine towns can command greater clout in the marketplace.

The Coop marketed its first load of materials in October of 1992. It expects to move over 23,000 tons this year for approximately 200 communities. Due in part to the Coop's efforts, prices for recyclable materials have increased, pricing is more consistent, and towns realize quicker payment for and movement of their materials.

The Coop markets the following materials:

- Newspaper (#6, #8)
- Magazines
- Bowater's Maine Pack
- HDPE plastic
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Clear Glass
- Office Paper
- Steel Cans
- Residential Mixed Paper
- Scrap Metal
- Textiles
- Tires

The Coop also provides a variety of services to its member towns, including the following:

- Provides marketing services assistance;
- Places and confirms orders;
- Sponsors workshops;
- Manages broker and manufacturer relationships;
- Researches new markets;
- Provides quality control;
- Develops product specifications;
- Provides tonnage reports to towns;
- Creates management reports on marketing;

- Provides cooperative purchasing (baling wire, gloves, etc.).

Any Maine community can belong to the Coop. A marketing membership in the Maine Resource Recovery Association is required. Dues are based on population. Please call the number provided above to receive a quote. A marketing fee of \$4/ton is deducted from material marketed through the Coop.



New Partnership Between SPO & MRRRA

The Maine Resource Recovery Association and the Maine State Planning Office's Waste Management and Recycling Program are redefining their partnership in order to better serve Maine's recycling and solid waste community.

Some of the ways in which these two entities will be working together in the future include:

- Publishing one newsletter to give consolidated reporting on relevant information, projects, and education and expand the distribution;
- Developing workshops on timely topics by pooling expertise and resources;
- Developing a voluntary certification program for recycling personnel in Maine;
- Other topics and issues as they arise.

MRRRA and SPO hope that by cooperating in this manner they will be able to better serve the solid waste and recycling needs of the state.